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**U.S. CONVICTS BRONX DRUG CREW OF MULTI-STATE CRACK  
DISTRIBUTION OPERATION; LEADER CONVICTED OF MURDER**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that three members of a violent crack distribution organization that operated in three states were convicted late yesterday in federal court of narcotics conspiracy and weapons charges after a six-week trial. The organization's leader, LARRY WILLIAMS, of the Bronx, New York, was also convicted on two counts of murder.

According to the evidence, between 1998 and July 2002, defendants LARRY WILLIAMS, and co-defendants KEVIN THOMPSON, and MAURICE CLARKE ran a crack distribution organization that operated in the vicinity of the Hillside Homes housing development in the Bronx, New York, among other places. The evidence showed that WILLIAMS, the leader of the organization, and his co-defendants and co-conspirators sold most of their crack on Corsa, Fish and Fenton Avenues in the Bronx and maintained a cache of illegal firearms, including a .22 caliber weapon, a 9-millimeter weapon, a Tech-9 firearm, a Taurus 9-millimeter firearm, a .40 caliber firearm, and other weapons.

Defendants KEVIN THOMPSON and MAURICE CLARKE used an apartment on Mickle Avenue in the Bronx to store the organization's crack, as well as its cash and firearms.

In late 1999, LARRY WILLIAMS expanded the crack distribution operation to Newport News, Virginia. The evidence showed that the conspirators smuggled drugs from the Bronx to Virginia for distribution on the streets of Newport News and the surrounding areas.

In late February 2000, while the organization was selling crack in Virginia, LARRY WILLIAMS discovered that one of the organization's members, a 20-year old named Jason Henry, had lost a quantity of the crack cocaine he had been given to sell. According to the evidence, WILLIAMS stripped Henry, beat him with a gun, and then fired a .22 caliber bullet into Henry's leg. At WILLIAMS' urging, a co-conspirator then fired two bullets into Henry's head, killing him. On WILLIAMS' orders, members of the organization then stuffed Henry's corpse into a garbage can and drove it to the vicinity of Henrico County, Virginia, where they dumped it in the grass alongside an off-ramp on Interstate 64.

The evidence presented at trial further demonstrated that in December 2001, LARRY WILLIAMS again expanded the organization's operations, this time into Georgetown, South Carolina. According to the evidence, Williams and his co-conspirators stashed their contraband in an apartment located at 1800 Prince Street in Georgetown, as well as in a Days Inn Motel in Georgetown. The evidence showed the .40 caliber firearm that

the organization kept in its Mickle Avenue stash apartment had been stolen from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.

All three defendants face a maximum term of life imprisonment. Sentencing for all defendants is scheduled for January 17, 2005, before US District Judge BARBARA JONES.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the New York City Police Department and the assistance of the Newport News Police Department, the Georgetown Police Department, and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARC MUKASEY and DAVID JAFFE are in charge of the prosecution.

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